

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

December 19, 2016

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Two men arrested after 'road rage' attack (0:14)

Setting the Scene



(Monty Kruger/CBC) (CBC file photo)

Driving a car can be stressful. In Canada, there are a lot of traffic rules to keep people safe. However, driving can still be dangerous. Big cities have traffic jams, especially before and after working hours. Snow, rain and ice can make driving difficult. Some drivers use their phones, and don't drive carefully. 'Road rage' is a feeling of anger that people get when they drive. It's usually caused by another driver who is being unsafe.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you drive in Canada? Is it easier or more difficult than in your home country?

Are Canadian traffic laws easy to understand?

Have you ever felt road rage? What happened?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Martha saw someone steal a woman's purse. She called the police to report the **incident**.
 - a) careful plan
 - b) unexpected event
2. When people are **assaulted**, they are often taken to the hospital to check for broken bones.
 - a) hurt or attacked
 - b) worried or stressed
3. After the driver hit the wall, he **took off**. The police don't know where he went.
 - a) undressed
 - b) left
4. The police have his license plate number. They think they can **track down** the driver.
 - a) find
 - b) limit
5. The woman was texting as she drove her car. She was **charged** with dangerous driving.
 - a) formally accused of a crime
 - b) lied to someone to commit a crime
6. Be careful when you walk through the park – there was an **attack** there last night.
 - a) connection or chain between things
 - b) violent or harmful act against someone
7. A car followed Tania home. She felt **threatened**, so she called her brother, who came to meet her.
 - a) likely to be wrong
 - b) likely to be harmed
8. Some drivers **ignore** traffic warnings when they are in a hurry. This is not a safe thing to do.
 - a) not pay attention to
 - b) not understand completely

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

paramedics – professionals who give emergency care to a sick person on the way to the hospital

tailgating – driving too closely behind another vehicle

rear-ending – hitting the back of a vehicle with the front of a vehicle

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2xebf3

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Matching

Read the people/objects below. As you listen to the audio, complete the sentences by matching the person or object with the correct information that follows. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Person/Object		Information
the driver of a van	•	• is charged with dangerous driving and assault
people in the area	•	• was driving with her daughter when she was attacked
one man	•	• stepped in to help, with paramedics
the other man	•	• say you should ignore a threatening driver, or call 911
Karalie Red Old Man	•	• was forced off the road and pulled out of his van
a BMW	•	• is charged with assault
two men	•	• followed Karalie Red Old Man to a parking lot
police	•	• got out of the car and assaulted Karalie Red Old Man

Food for Thought

How can people prevent road rage when driving?

Have you ever seen road rage from another driver? What did you do?

What else can people do if they are threatened by a driver?

News story #2 Marijuana law recommendations released by government (1:49)

Setting the Scene



A marijuana plant (David McNew/Reuters) (CBC file photo)

In some parts of the world, marijuana has become a legal drug. In some places, it can be used as a medicine, to treat pain or illness. In some places, it can also be used recreationally, or for fun, like alcohol or cigarettes. The Liberal government has plans to create new laws around marijuana, which would make it legal. However, like alcohol and cigarettes, some rules will be made to control the sale of the drug.

Pre-listening Questions

What are the marijuana laws in your country?

Who do you think supports this change in law?

Who do you think is against this change in law?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

task force (n.)	a group that handles a specific issue or problem
recommendation (n.)	a suggestion about what to do
legalization (n.)	the process of allowing something by law
introduce (v.)	to present something to the public or a group
tobacco (n.)	a plant whose leaves are smoked in cigarettes
limit (n.)	the highest amount allowed
strict (adj.)	carefully followed

1. After the flood, the city organized a _____ to arrange emergency housing, repairs, and health care.
2. In Canada, there is a legal _____ for how much alcohol people can drink before driving a car. The government may _____ a similar system for marijuana.
3. The council's _____ was for new traffic laws against speeding. They said that _____ traffic laws could help reduce car accidents.
4. _____ is legally bought and sold in Canada. However, smoking is not allowed in public buildings and many public places, like parks.
5. In 2005, Canada passed a law allowing same-sex couples to marry. After this _____, many couples travelled to Canada to get married.

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

pot – a slang word for marijuana

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2xebix

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following questions. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. A task force has released a report with more than 8 / 18 / 80 recommendations.
2. The Liberals have promised to introduce new laws in the senate / spring / summer that would make marijuana legal.
3. The task force says it should be limited to people at least 16 / 18 / 28 years or older.
4. They say people should only be allowed to have 13 / 30 / 300 grams at a time.
5. They say it should not be sold at stores that also sell alcohol and tobacco / alcohol and medicine / auto parts and equipment.
6. They suggest there be a limit on people growing / selling / buying their own plants.
7. The Canadian Marijuana Association / Media Association / Medical Association recommended pot be limited to people over the age of 21.
8. They say there should be strict limits on how much and how strong the drug could be for anyone under 20 / 25 / 29.

Food for thought

Do you agree with the task force's recommendations?

Would you add any other recommendations to this list?

How do you think Canada will change when marijuana becomes legal?

News story #3 Drivers warned about moose licking cars (3:04)

Setting the Scene



A moose in southern Alberta (CBC file photo)

Moose are very large animals that live in many regions of Canada, including Alberta. Perhaps you have seen signs on the road to warn drivers of moose in the area. They are so big that a car accident can cause a lot of damage to the moose, the car and the people in it. Moose eat plants, but in the winter, they may get hungry. If you see a moose in the wild, you should be careful, make sure it isn't scared, and move to a safe place.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you ever seen a moose?

What other wild animals live in Alberta? Have you seen any of them?

Moose have big horns on their heads, called antlers. Can you think of other animals with antlers?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	warning (n.)	a) tasting (with tongue)
_____	reports (n.)	b) frighten, shock
_____	parking lots (n.)	c) cars, vans, trucks
_____	licking (v.)	d) news, stories
_____	vehicles (n.)	e) signal, noise
_____	melt (v.)	f) beep, sound
_____	scare (v.)	g) alert, advisory
_____	honk (v.)	h) warm, soften
_____	horn (n.)	i) garages, parking areas

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2xebm8

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Who is the warning for?
2. What kind of park is mentioned in the news story?
3. Who shared reports of the moose?
4. Where are the moose going?
5. What are the moose doing?
6. Why is there salt on vehicles these days?
7. Who gives advice for scaring away the moose?
8. What advice do they give to scare a moose?
9. What do they warn *not* to do?

Food for thought

Have you ever visited a provincial park? Did you see animals there?

How can people be safe when they visit parks?

What would you do if you saw a moose near your car?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	DECEMBER WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with the CBC for December 19 th , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Two men are facing charges after an apparent road rage incident in southeast Calgary. Police say the driver of a van was forced off the road, then pulled out of the vehicle and assaulted. They say people in the area stepped in to help along with paramedics who were nearby. The two men took off. Police were able to track them down and arrest them. One man is charged with assault and the other with dangerous driving and assault. This is the second road rage attack in the city recently. In the first incident, Karalie Red Old Man was driving with her daughter on Dec. 7th when she said a BMW followed her to an arena parking lot after tailgating and rear-ending her. She says at the arena, the two men got out of the car and assaulted her. No one has been arrested in the second attack. Police say if you are threatened by another driver, you should try to ignore them. They say you should call 911 if you feel unsafe, and drive to a well-lit area with people.	0:14
Story 2	A task force set up by the federal government has released a report with more than 80 recommendations about the legalization of marijuana. The Liberals have promised to introduce new laws in the spring that would make marijuana legal in Canada. The task force says pot should be limited to people at least 18 years or older, people should only be allowed to have 30 grams at a time, and pot should not be sold at stores that sell alcohol or tobacco. The report also suggests there be a limit on people growing their own plants. The Canadian Medical Association had recommended pot be limited to people over the age of 21, but it also wants to see strict limits on how much and how strong the drug could be for anyone under the age of 25.	1:49
Story 3	And a warning for anyone visiting Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. Alberta Parks says there have been reports of moose coming into parking lots and licking the salt off of vehicles. Salt is used on roads to melt snow and ice. The government says the best way to try and scare a salt-licking moose away is to honk your horn. Do not try to push the moose away.	3:04

Answer keys

News story 1 Two men arrested after 'road rage' attack (0:14)

Vocabulary

1. Martha saw someone steal a woman's purse. She called the police to report the **incident**.
a) careful plan
b) unexpected event
2. When people are **assaulted**, they are often taken to the hospital to check for broken bones.
a) hurt or attacked
b) worried or stressed
3. After the driver hit the wall, he **took off**. The police don't know where he went.
a) undressed
b) left
4. The police have his license plate number. They think they can **track down** the driver.
a) find
b) limit
5. The woman was texting as she drove her car. She was **charged** with dangerous driving.
a) formally accused of a crime
b) lied to someone to commit a crime
6. Be careful when you walk through the park – there was an **attack** there last night.
a) connection or chain between things
b) violent or harmful act against someone
7. A car followed Tania home. She felt **threatened**, so she called her brother, who came to meet her.
a) likely to be wrong
b) likely to be harmed
8. Some drivers **ignore** traffic warnings when they are in a hurry. This is not a safe thing to do.
a) not pay attention to
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Listening

Person/Object		Information
the driver of a van	•	is charged with dangerous driving and assault
people in the area	•	was driving with her daughter when she was attacked
one man	•	stepped in to help, with paramedics
the other man	•	say you should ignore a threatening driver, or call 911
Karalie Red Old Man	•	was forced off the road and pulled out of his van
a BMW	•	is charged with assault
two men	•	followed Karalie Red Old Man to a parking lot
police	•	got out of the car and assaulted Karalie Red Old Man

News story 2 Marijuana law recommendations released by government (1:49)

Vocabulary

1. After the flood, the city organized a **task force** to arrange emergency housing, repairs, and health care.
2. In Canada, there is a legal **limit** for how much alcohol people can drink before driving a car. The government may **introduce** a similar system for marijuana.
3. The council's **recommendation** was for new traffic laws against speeding. They said that **strict** traffic laws could help reduce car accidents.
4. **Tobacco** is legally bought and sold in Canada. However, smoking is not allowed in public buildings and many public places, like parks.
5. In 2005, Canada passed a law allowing same-sex couples to marry. After this **legalization**, many couples travelled to Canada to get married.

Listening

1. A task force has released a report with more than **8 / 18 / 80** recommendations.
2. The Liberals have promised to introduce new laws in the **senate / spring / summer** that would make marijuana legal.
3. The task force says it should be limited to people at least **16 / 18 / 28** years or older.

4. They say people should only be allowed to have 13 / 30 / 300 grams at a time.
5. They say it should not be sold at stores that also sell alcohol and tobacco / alcohol and medicine / auto parts and equipment.
6. They suggest there be a limit on people growing / selling / buying their own plants.
7. The Canadian Marijuana Association / Media Association / Medical Association recommended pot be limited to people over the age of 21.
8. They say there should be strict limits on how much and how strong the drug could be for anyone under 20 / 25 / 29.

News story 3 Drivers warned about moose licking cars (3:04)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
<u>g</u>	warning (n.)	a) tasting (with tongue)
<u>d</u>	reports (n.)	b) frighten, shock
<u>i</u>	parking lots (n.)	c) cars, vans, trucks
<u>a</u>	licking (v.)	d) news, stories
<u>c</u>	vehicles (n.)	e) signal, noise
<u>h</u>	melt (v.)	f) beep, sound
<u>b</u>	scare (v.)	g) alert, advisory
<u>f</u>	honk (v.)	h) warm, soften
<u>e</u>	horn (n.)	i) garages, parking areas

Listening

1. Who is the warning for?
Anyone visiting Peter Lougheed Provincial Park
2. What kind of park is mentioned in the news story?
Provincial
3. Who shared reports of the moose?
Alberta Parks
4. Where are the moose going?
Into parking lots
5. What are the moose doing?
Licking the salt off vehicles
6. Why is there salt on vehicles these days?
It is used on roads to melt snow and ice
7. Who gives advice for scaring away the moose?
The government
8. What advice do they give to scare a moose?
Honk your horn
9. What do they warn *not* to do?
Try and push the moose away